

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Wichner (Reg. No. 52,359) on 6/14/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

delete "." (claim 9, line 20, second instance)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not specifically disclose or remotely suggest

With regard to independent claim 1:

associating an output port in a node to an unused bit in a sub-field corresponding to the node in an address such that in response to a new address for directing a packet to a node in the network, the packet is forwarded via the output port.

With regard to independent claim 8:

determining whether two bit positions in all the addresses of all nodes in said network are identical; and

determining whether the values at two bit positions in all the addresses of all nodes in said network are complementary to each other and if so, eliminating one of the bit positions.

With regard to independent claim 9:

adding a new address to the network, the new address associated with a second node;

mapping the new address into an unused bit in a new address header in a new packet such that the new address header corresponds to the new address;
and

configuring, at each node in the network, a second output port such that in response to the unused bit in the address header in the packet having a new desired value, the new packet is forwarded via the second output port whereby the new packet is directed to the second node.

With regard to independent claim 15:

generating a first multi-level address and a second multi-level address for at least one node of said network, **wherein each address comprises a plurality of sub-addresses, wherein each of said sub-addresses is associated with one of the levels of said multi-level network, wherein a sub-address at each level specifies the routing information among a subset of nodes at the level;** and

shortening a self-routing address of a node in response to determining that more than two or more bits in a plurality of self-routing addresses are identical.

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In addition, Examiner points to the arguments of Applicant's representative (Arguments/Remarks on 6/8/2011 (p. 6); Arguments/Remarks on 1/20/2011 (pp. 7 – 11)).

2. These limitations, in conjunction with the other limitations in the independent claims, are not specifically disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art of record.

A review of claims 1, 2, 4 – 6, 8, 9, 15, and 20, in view of the Examiner's arguments above, indicates that claims 1, 2, 4 – 6, 8, 9, 15, and 20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth R. Coulter whose telephone number is (571)272-3879. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 7:30 am - 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kenneth R Coulter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2445

/KRC/